

REMARKS

In the foregoing amendments, claims 1 and 13 are amended. Claims 1-20 remain pending in the present application.

I. Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants wish to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in which claims 4, 9, 12, 17, and 20 would be allowable if re-written in independent form to include the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 13. However, Applicants choose not to amend the claims as suggested by the Examiner at this time.

II. Response to 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Claims 1, 2, 7, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over *Chappell* (U.S. Patent No. 6,425,132) in view of *Caporizzo* (U.S. Patent No. 5,874,992) and *Chen et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,032,019). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over *Chappell* in view of *Caporizzo* and *Chen et al.*, and further in view of *Schwartz* (U.S. Patent No. 5,883,882). Claims 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14-16, 18, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over *Chappell* in view of *Caporizzo* and *Chen et al.*, and further in view of *Hsu et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,483,814).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections because the cited references, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the claimed elements of independent claims 1 and 13, as amended. Furthermore, the cited references do not provide any suggestion or motivation to modify *Chappell* or combine reference teachings as suggested in the Office Action.

In order to make a proper *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met, as set forth in MPEP 706.02(j). First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art references, when combined, must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable

expectation of success must both be found in the prior art and not based on Applicant's disclosure.

A. Claim 1

Independent claim 1 is directed to an interface system for monitoring a number of channels in a communications system having at least one group of a number of nodes, each node having a number of channels. The interface system comprises a processor, a memory, a display device, and *test result interface logic*. The test result interface logic includes *"group level display logic to generate a number of group level test result components on the display device that include a number of group parameters associated with the at least one group."* The test result interface logic also includes *"node level display logic to generate a number of node level test result components on the display device that include a number of node parameters associated with one of the nodes."* In addition, the test result interface logic includes *"channel level display logic to generate a number of channel level test result components on the display device that include a number of channel parameters associated with a channel on one of the nodes."*

As amended, claim 1 recites that the test result interface logic further includes *"logic to enable a user to select among the group level test result components, node level test result components, and channel level test result components for display on the display device."* Support for this feature can be found in the specification and drawings of the present application. Specifically, the feature can at least be found on p. 56, lines 7-10; p. 58, lines 17-19; and p. 61, lines 17-19, in which one of the group button, node button, or channel button in the display level selector box 369 can be selected. In particular, Figs. 11A-11C shows the group button depressed, Figs. 11D-11F shows the node button depressed, and Figs. 11G-11K shows the channel button depressed. The group of buttons in the display level selector box 369 allow a user to select the desired display level.

The cited references, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest this claimed feature. Also, the prior art fails to provide motivation to alter the *Chappell* reference in a manner to enable selection of the various display levels, as claimed. Particularly, since the references merely disclose operating on one level only, there would be no need or reason to even consider such a selection. For at least

this reason, Applicants contend that claim 1 is allowable over the combination of references as applied in the Office Action and respectfully request that the Examiner kindly withdraw the rejection. Dependent claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10, and 11 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 1.

B. Claim 13

Independent claim 13 is directed to a method for monitoring a number of channels in a communications system having at least one group of a number of nodes, each node having a number of channels. The method comprises the steps of *“generating a number of group level test result components on a display device that include a number of group parameters associated with the at least one group,”* *“generating a number of node level test result components on the display device that include a number of node parameters associated with one of the nodes,”* and *“generating a number of channel level test result components on the display device that include a number of channel parameters associated with a channel on one of the nodes.”*

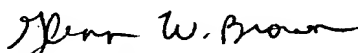
As amended, claim 13 recites that the method further includes the step of *“enabling a user to select among the group level test result components, node level test result components, and channel level test result components for display on the display device.”* Again, support for this feature can be found in the specification and drawings of the present application as mentioned above. The group button, node button, and channel button in the display level selector box 369 enable a user to select the desired display level.

The cited combination of references fails to teach or suggest this claimed feature and fails to provide a motivation to alter the *Chappell* reference in such a way as to enable selection of the various display levels. Since the references merely disclose operating on one level only, there would be no need or reason to consider such a selection. Applicants assert that claim 13 is therefore allowable for at least this reason and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection. Furthermore, dependent claims 14-16, 18, and 19 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 13.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all rejections have been traversed and/or accommodated and that pending claims 1-20, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

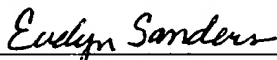


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